

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

1. ANGOLA: BIGGEST HEADLINES IN JAN. 28 PRESS GIVEN TO MPLA'S USE, FOR FIRST TIME, OF MIG AIRPLANES AND OF UNITA'S TRANSFERRING ITS CAPITAL FROM HUAMBO TO SILVA PORTO. HIGH PLAY ALSO WAS GIVEN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES' VOTE AGAINST U.S. INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA. "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" JAN. 28 REPORT GAVE PROMINENT SPACE TO PRESIDENT FORD'S APPEAL TO CONGRESS FOR ASSISTANCE TO "THE TWO LARGEST POLITICAL MOVEMENTS OF ANGOLA." "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" ALSO PUBLISHED FRONT-PAGE REPORT ON SOCIALIST LEADER MARIO SOARES' STATEMENTS RE ANGOLA AFTER HIS CONVERSATION WITH KISSINGER. REPORT SAID SOARES FAVORED A "NEGOTIATED SOLUTION" AND "SUGGESTED THAT THE BEST POLICY FOR WASHINGTON ON ANGOLA WOULD BE TO STAY OUT OF THE TERRITORIAL FIGHT TO MAINTAIN A MORAL POSITION IN WHICH IT COULD PRESSURE THE USSR TO REMOVE ITS SUPPORT FOR THE MPLA." STATE TV JAN. 27 PRIME-TIME NEWSCAST CARRIED FAIRLY LONG ANALYSIS OF U.S. GOALS IN ANGOLA, SAYING THAT U.S. BEGAN WITH A DESIRE TO INFLUENCE ANGOLAN SITUATION THROUGH AID TO UNITA AND FNLA; NOW THAT THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE

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BECAUSE OF U.S. CONGRESSIONAL ACTION, THE ANALYSIS CONCLUDED,

THE U.S. SEEKS TO INFLUENCE THE MPLA THROUGH THIRD PARTIES,
SUCH AS NIGERIA AND BRAZIL.

2. FOR CU/WE RE SOARES VISIT: MEDIA PLAY IN GENERAL REMAINS
IMPRESSIVE. MOST PRESS ARTICLES TODAY EMPHASIZE HIS MEETING
WITH KISSINGER. BESIDES THE ANGOLAN ISSUE, HE IS MOST FREQUENTLY
QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HE WAS PROMISED U.S. ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
FOR PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENT.

3. HARTMAN VISIT TO LISBON: MODERATELY HEAVY MEDIA ATTENTION
CONTINUED. JAN. 27 AND 28 MEDIA REPORTS EMPHASIZED HIS AIRPORT
DEPARTURE STATEMENTS TO PRESS AND OUTLINED HIS AGENDA OF MEETINGS
WITH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PARTY LEADERS.
LEADING "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" JAN. 28 HEADLINE WAS, "ARTHUR
HARTMAN UPON DEPARTURE: AN OPTIMISTIC IMPRESSION ABOUT THE
PORTUGUESE SITUATION." ARTICLE QUOTED HIM AS SAYING, "THE
PORTUGUESE AUTHORITIES KNOW NOW THE DIRECTION THEY WANT TO
TAKE IN CONSTRUCTING A DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT" AND PROMISING
AFTERWARD "ALL THE (U.S.) ASSISTANCE POSSIBLE"; AMONG PAPER'S
QUOTES ON ANGOLA WAS THIS ONE: "I AM NOT INTERESTED IN
SPEAKING AT LENGTH ABOUT THE SITUATION. I JUST WANT TO SAY
THAT WE ARE QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT THE MASSIVE INTERVENTION
BY THE SOVIET UNION, ACTING (IN PART) THROUGH AN EXPEDITIONARY
FORCE OF SOME 10,000 CUBANS...." ONLY NOTABLE NEGATIVE NOTE
PREDICTABLY CAME IN ARTICLE PUBLISHED BY COMMUNIST "O DIARIO"
WHICH COMPLAINED THAT HARTMAN ONLY SPOKE OF "TRIVIALITIES"
TO THE PRESS AND THAT IN SAYING THAT "PORTUGAL WAS ON THE
RIGHT ROAD TO ATTAIN ITS GOALS" HARTMAN WAS "USING WORDS NOT
VERY DIFFERENT FROM THOSE WASHINGTON USES...FOR COUNTRIES
WHICH ARE TRYING TO FREE THEMSELVES FROM THE IMPERIALISTIC
TUTELAGE."

4. CIA: LEFTIST "DIARIO DE LISBOA" OF JAN. 27 CONTINUED ITS
SYSTEMATIC DAILY SERIES OF BLASTS AGAINST ALLEGED CIA ACTIVITIES
IN PORTUGAL WITH AN ANALYSIS THAT SOUGHT TO LINK THE CIA WITH
THE RIGHT-WING ELP AND MDLP.
JORDAN

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